

## “Historic Occasion” for Tennessee

*Governor Bill Lee signs proclamation of support for Israel in statewide ceremony at Old Supreme Court Chambers*

By **LARRY BROOK**

With Israeli Consul General Judith Varnai Shorer seated by his side, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed a proclamation to “honor and commend the Nation of Israel, and extend Tennessee’s friendship and esteem as we remain steadfast in our support of the Nation of Israel.”

The ceremony took place in the Old Supreme Court Chambers on March 7, organized by the office of Sen. Mark Pody, who introduced a pro-Israel resolution in the state Senate.

The resolution passed the Senate, 28-0, on Feb. 21, and was working its way through the House when the ceremony took place.

The proclamation on March 7 was signed by Lee, Pody, speaker of the Senate Randy McNally, and Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver, who is navigating the resolution through the House.

Weaver said she is honored to be sponsoring the bill in the House, as “we are best buddies across the pond.”

Lee said he was honored to be part of “a historical moment in Tennessee.”

“It’s more than just a historical moment, It’s a spiritual moment,” he said, citing Genesis 12:3, where God tells Abraham that He will bless those who bless him, and curse those who curse him.

Lee said he has first-hand knowledge from a powerful experience visiting Israel. “Not only is there a friendship” between Tennessee and Israel, “there is a bond deeper than friendship.”

Shorer thanked Tennessee for “your strong, continued support of Israel.” She noted that Tennessee is “in the heart of America’s largest evangelical community,” which is strongly pro-Israel.

Saying that Israel will “continue to prosper,” Shorer concluded, “please come to visit us... it is so beautiful.”

Eric Stillman, executive director of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, expressed thanks for the event, saying “on behalf of the 23,500 members of the Jewish community of the state of Tennessee, it is an amazing occurrence today... we are very proud of the strong relationship between the state of Tennessee and the state of Israel.”

*Continued on page 6*



Governor Bill Lee, Israeli Consul General Judith Varnai Shorer and Sen. Mark Pody are joined by Nashville rabbis at the signing ceremony for a proclamation of support for Israel on March 7

## Akiva Gaining STEAM

*Becomes first Jewish Day School anywhere to get certification, first elementary school in Nashville*

By **LARRY BROOK**

When talking about excellence, Akiva School isn’t blowing smoke — it’s celebrating STEAM.

Last month, Akiva became the first Jewish Day School in the world to become a STEAM-certified school, demonstrating excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math education.

The certification comes from AdvancED, the largest community of education professionals in the world. AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site reviews of a variety of educational institutions and systems to ensure that all learners realize their

full potential.

The certification came about after a lengthy process. Five years ago, Akiva embarked on a strategic plan. Head of School Daniella Pressner said one of the main goals was “to become a school of excellence in the STEM field.” As they started to implement that, they realized they wanted to be a STEAM school, adding an emphasis on the arts.

Akiva started teaching coding, created a MakerSpace laboratory and started developing a media lab. The MakerSpace is equipped with iPads, Chrome books, movable tables, storage, numerous educational models, and an abundance of science, art, and mathematics resources to promote

STEAM collaborative exploration.

There was also an emphasis on professional development, giving teachers more tools to spark wonder, collaboration and innovation among students, encouraging their academic growth.

Each grade level has expectations for personal growth, and as communication is an emphasis, students of all ages make presentations in front of the entire school.

In STEAM, technology is used in “substantial ways” across the school’s disciplines, even ones that aren’t directly related to STEAM subjects. But Pressner said the technology is not the emphasis, it is a

*Continued on page 14*

A Publication of the



# JFS to honor Hecklin, Hyatt at Chesed Dinner

Sandra Hecklin and Larry Hyatt were named the recipients of Jewish Family Service's 2019 Chesed Award, given each year to acknowledge the contributions the recipients have made to the Jewish and broader Nashville communities.

Chesed is Hebrew for "loving kindness," and occurs when the command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is fulfilled. The Jewish community of Nashville couldn't be luckier to have Sandra Hecklin and Larry Hyatt as neighbors, as they are prime examples of what Chesed means in the Nashville Jewish community.

"Both Sandra and Larry live and breathe the essence of Chesed! They both share their talents freely with so many organizations both in the Jewish and broader community," said JFS Executive Director Pam Kelner. "One of the aspects I love most about the Chesed Award is the opportunity to share with the entire community what our amazing honorees have done to impact the quality of life for so many in our community. We can all be inspired by their accomplishments."

Since Hecklin moved to Nashville, she embraced the Jewish community. She graciously devoted time by taking on leadership roles in several Jewish organizations in Nashville, including the Nashville Section of NCJW, Hadassah, Ort, West End Synagogue and The Temple. Hecklin has also served on boards of CASA, the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation, the Gordon Jewish Community Center, and the Federation. Her commitment to Jewish Family Services led her to become president of the board, and she is currently serving as JFS's chair of the Life & Legacy initiative.

When reflecting on her many years of service, Hecklin said "I am lucky to live in Nashville and I have been honored to learn about community needs and the personal needs of other through community services and philanthropy. Community service has allowed me to grow as an individual and to use my Jewish values to make our community a better place to live. Surprised and grateful are the best description of my reaction to learning of this honor."

Hyatt has a history of giving back to his community. When living in the greater Washington area, he and his wife Carol were founding members of Congregation Or Chadash in Germantown, Md., where he also served as a board member for 10 years and president for two. He served for many years on the board and finance committee of the Jewish Social



Sandra Hecklin



Larry Hyatt

Services Agency for Metropolitan Washington, that area's version of JFS.

Hyatt has served as treasurer of Congregation Micah, treasurer of JFS, and is currently a member of the budget and finance Committee of JFS as well as president of the board of the Akiva School. He has also served for five years on the Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee.

"Carol and I moved to the Nashville area a little more than 14 years ago. From almost the moment we arrived, we were struck by how welcoming and inclusive this Jewish community is. Through my involvement with JFS, Akiva School and Congregation Micah, and Carol's presidency of Nashville Federation, we are glad to have had the opportunity to give something back to this wonderful community. I am honored and humbled to receive the Chesed Award from JFS this year."

The awards will be presented at the annual JFS fundraiser dinner that will take place on May 16. The Chesed Dinner will begin with a reception at 6:15 p.m. at the Gordon JCC with a kosher dinner following at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information or to make reservations, contact Janet Parr at (615) 356-4234 or reserve online at <http://jfsnashville.org/support/events/>

The Chesed Dinner is the primary fundraiser for JFS, one of Nashville's oldest social service agencies. Last year JFS served more than 1,700 individuals through its 18 services and programs in the areas of adoption, counseling, psychotherapy, financial assistance, senior services, information and referral, and family life and community enrichment.

For more information about JFS, contact Pam Kelner at (615) 354-1644 or visit the JFS Website at [www.jfsnashville.org](http://www.jfsnashville.org).

## Nashville Jewish Food Festival on April 28

Right after Passover, the Nashville Jewish Food Festival will bring Jewish delicacies to the Gordon Jewish Community Center on April 28 from noon to 3 p.m.

This event will foster an appreciation for Jewish culture and traditions, bringing together the broader Jewish community from across Nashville.

The festival will go "beyond the bagel" and explore food of different Jewish regions and cultures. Aside from the food, there will be competitions, music and activities for all ages, along with cooking demonstrations and a Moroccan Jewish Mimuna celebration.

A call for kugels has gone out, where community members can compete for the title of best kugel. An entry page is on the festival website.

More information is available at [nashvillejewishfood.org](http://nashvillejewishfood.org).



## Yom Hashoah COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION SERVICE

**SUNDAY, MAY 5 | 2-3PM**  
**NASHVILLE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL**  
ON THE GROUNDS OF THE GORDON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
801 PERCY WARNER BLVD. NASHVILLE

Featuring: Sarah May, granddaughter of Holocaust survivor Rosemary May,  
music by Akiva School Students and Violins of Hope

For more information contact Deborah Oleshansky  
at [Deborah@jewishnashville.org](mailto:Deborah@jewishnashville.org).



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
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# Jewish Preschool options continue to expand



## Nashville's Jewish Montessori Preschool opens an Infant Room

The Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool recently celebrated the opening of an Infant Room Program, for babies from ages six weeks old and up.

The Infant room provides a happy, loving and caring environment where young infant children feel loved and cared for. The infant classroom has Jewish-themed centers, and is led by Morah Jenni Schapire, who is a talented musician and introduces music daily.

Revere, Nashville's only Jewish Montessori preschool, opened its doors 18 months ago on a 9-acre wooded Bellevue campus. Since that time, it has grown with over a 70 percent increase in its enrollment. The new room serves the Nashville community and fills a need.

The Montessori philosophy celebrates each child's natural curiosity and desire to learn. Independence, self-confidence, self-discipline and love of learning are characteristics that are developed in the Montessori classroom.

In the infant and primary classrooms, Hebrew language is introduced and Jewish lessons are integrated and complement the traditional Montessori curriculum. Jewish holidays are explained, explored and celebrated.

Every Friday morning, the preschool has a very lively and happy Shabbat party, complete with Ima and Aba role playing, songs and dancing. It is also a time to host birthday celebrations as a school community.

The preschool encourages its parents to be involved and partner with them, as it works together to not only educate but enhance the children's lives. RJMP continues to incorporate new programs into its curriculum, and recently added a music class.

Space is limited, especially in the infant program. For more information, to request a registration packet, or to schedule a visit, call the RJMP office at (615) 646-5750.

## Closer to Downtown: Gordon JCC, West End collaborate on new location at WES

With a scarcity of open spots for Jewish child care in Nashville, especially for infants, and because of logistical challenges for families who work downtown, the Gordon Jewish Community Center and West End Synagogue have joined forces to open a satellite preschool at West End, which is much more convenient for families living in the Sylvan Park, Richland and East Nashville areas.

Many who work downtown have said that traffic prevents them from using one of the existing programs at The Temple Preschool, The Gordon JCC's ECLC, Micah Children's Academy and the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool at Chabad, said Leslie Sax, Gordon JCC executive director.

The satellite ECLC program at West End will open in August 2019, and will offer full-day childcare for children 6 weeks to 5 years. Renovation of existing classrooms will begin in April.

"The Gordon JCC is committed to providing a high-quality early childhood programs that allow children to flourish and grow through developmentally-appropriate play-based learning. We are thrilled to work with West End to extend our program to meet the needs of Jewish families in our community," Sax said.

Both Steve Hirsch, president of the West End board, and Rabbi Joshua Kullcock, agree on why the preschool is such an important step for West End Synagogue.

"Early childhood services have been a part of our vision for West End Synagogue's future," they said. "As more young Jewish families move to Nashville, the demand for such programs has increased. We are delighted that our board has voted to move this project ahead and we are grateful to the Gordon JCC leadership, who have shared our vision and helped us make this happen for our congregation and for the Nashville Jewish community."

The program is designed around the seven core elements of JCC Association of North America's innovative Sheva Center, an Early Childhood Jewish Education and Engagement Community, providing a meaningful Early Childhood experience through a Jewish lens.

Registration is now open. For more information and to download the registration packet go to [www.westendsyn.org](http://www.westendsyn.org)

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*Wishing you and those you love  
peace, health, and happiness,  
at Passover and always.*


LEADERSHIP TEAM



JESSICA AVERBUCH, CEO  
615.294.9880  
[jessica@zeitlin.com](mailto:jessica@zeitlin.com)



SAM AVERBUCH, COO  
615.294.9887  
[sam@zeitlin.com](mailto:sam@zeitlin.com)



SHIRLEY ZEITLIN  
615.383.0183  
[shirley@zeitlin.com](mailto:shirley@zeitlin.com)

OUTSTANDING AGENTS



DOROTHY CURTIS  
615.479.0474  
[dorothy.curtis@zeitlin.com](mailto:dorothy.curtis@zeitlin.com)




LORNA GRAFF  
615.351.5343  
[lorna.graff@zeitlin.com](mailto:lorna.graff@zeitlin.com)



JENNIE ZAGNOEV  
615.838.2048  
[jennie.zagnoev@zeitlin.com](mailto:jennie.zagnoev@zeitlin.com)



KAROL FARAGALLI  
615.289.3359  
[karolfaragalli@gmail.com](mailto:karolfaragalli@gmail.com)



JAY LOWENTHAL  
615.300.3617  
[jay.lowenthal@zeitlin.com](mailto:jay.lowenthal@zeitlin.com)



JACKSON ZEITLIN  
615.479.6461  
[jackson.zeitlin@zeitlin.com](mailto:jackson.zeitlin@zeitlin.com)



MARK FINKELSTEIN  
954.214.5530  
[mark.finkelstein@zeitlin.com](mailto:mark.finkelstein@zeitlin.com)




NAN SPELLER  
615.973.1117  
[nanspeller2014@gmail.com](mailto:nanspeller2014@gmail.com)

GREEN HILLS  
615.383.0183

BELLE MEADE  
615.202.7777

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## Ess & Fress Catering is offering a few of your favorite delicacies for Passover this year.



These specialties are great as gifts if you happen to be attending a Seder outside of your home, or if you are looking for yourself and the rest of the family.

Loaf of Gefilte Fish (serves 8-10) ..... \$16  
6 oz container Goldie's Beet Red Horseradish \$5  
8 oz container Beef Chopped Liver ..... \$5

Please have your orders in no later than Monday, April 15th.

In addition, E&F is now distributing kosher groceries, including meats, cheeses, fish and specialty items that are nearly impossible to find in Nashville. If you are having trouble finding items through your local grocery store, give us a call and we will do our best to help!

For orders and pickup arrangements, or if you have any questions regarding special orders, please email Dvora at [essandfresscatering@gmail.com](mailto:essandfresscatering@gmail.com).

### Chag Sameach!

## Israeli Elections are coming!

Israeli journalist Nathan Jaffay will provide up the minute coverage of the early elections for the Knesset. This is your chance to hear a first hand report on the internal Israeli political climate, political rivalries and the inside word on the street.

**April 2nd, 6:30pm-8:00pm**

**GJCC Board room**

**801 Percy Warner Blvd.**

**RSVP** [sharon@jewishnashville.org](mailto:sharon@jewishnashville.org)



For his readers on three continents, journalist Nathan Jaffay is a key source of information and analysis on what is happening in Israel.

Jeffay has been a journalist for 20 years. For the last 10 years he has been writing from Israel, and has been published by a wide range of media including The Times and the world's most visited English-language newspaper site Mail Online. He has special relationships with four newspapers



## Sharing with Sharon

### Israel goes to the polls

Let's discuss Israel's often-confusing elections

By **SHARON BEN AMI**  
Community Shlichah

During the month of March, I had the pleasure of giving a few talks about the upcoming elections in Israel. What started as a boring gathering of information had turned into an obsessive binge of any information about the elections in Israel.

As a part of my learning process, I asked the people around me about the electoral system in the United States, and although I was flooded with more information than I could handle, I was in awe of the very well-educated people around me and how informed they are about U.S. politics. I admire this quality that seems true to everyone I know from the Jewish community.

Two wonderful women who helped me with my learning process are Deborah Oleshansky, my supervisor and director of community relations for the Federation, and Michal Askenazi Becker, adult outreach coordinator for the GJCC and Federation.

For those of you who didn't attend my

programs, here is some basic information of the Israeli elections:

#### A quick overview: Why early elections?

The current government (Knesset) disbanded in December 2018.

The law dissolving the Knesset passed on Dec. 26, and the parliament set election day for April 9, 7 months before the original date for the next elections.

The resignation of Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman left the coalition with a fragile majority of 61 members.

The formal reason for the collapse: the governing coalition's inability to obtain a majority to push a proposed solution for the issue of ultra-Orthodox military service.

#### Running parties:

As of March 15, there are 43 parties running for elections.

For these elections, many parties joined together. For example, some big parties like 'Yesh Atid' and 'Israel Resilience' from the center joined forces to create an alternative for the biggest party, 'Likud' from the right. Small parties who didn't have good prospects to pass the 3.25 percent threshold to gain seats in the Knesset joined together based on some commonalities and despite many differences.

As of March 15, the 'Likud' party and 'Blue and White' party are very close in the polls, which grants the small parties much more political power as to decide who they would like to form a coalition with.

The current Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was indicted for corruption charges. The hearing on his case will take place only after the elections in order not to interfere with the elections, in the chance that he is innocent.

What happens if Netanyahu is charged? What party has best prospects of forming a coalition? What does the common Israeli think? Come find out from Journalist Nathan Jaffay on April 2 at 6:30 p.m., at the Gordon JCC. Reserve at [Sharon@jewishnashville.org](mailto:Sharon@jewishnashville.org).

Want to talk about it? Let's have coffee. You can email me or call (615) 354-1632.



### Did You Know...

- The average length of a coalition in Israel is 2.7 years
- Israel only had 6 governments that completed a full term (out of 20)
- There is no limit to how many parties can run in the elections.
- Threshold: Each party needs at least 3.25% of the votes to get a seat in the Knesset
- Out of 120 seats, 12 mandates were seated by 'the joint list' — an Arab-Israeli party.
- In the current government there are 10 parties
- Israel's voting percentage is 72.3%
- Citizens with criminal record or who are incarcerated can vote
- There is no absentee ballot
- There is no need for registration
- The voting day in Israel is considered a national holiday — a day off school and work, and it is always on a Tuesday.

## Correction

In the 2019 Guide to Jewish Nashville, this profile of Ess & Fress Catering was inadvertently left out from the article on kosher caterers that serve the community. We apologize for the omission! We have corrected this by revising the online version of the Guide.

Ess & Fress is a kosher and kosher-style catering company with over 30 years of professional restaurant experience focusing on simchas of all types. They also are a distributor of kosher groceries including meats, cheeses, fish and specialty items that are nearly impossible to find in Nashville. If you are having trouble finding items through your local grocery store, give them a call!

For orders and pickup arrangements, or any special orders, please email Dvora at [essandfresscatering@gmail.com](mailto:essandfresscatering@gmail.com).



## Letters

Dear Jewish Nashville,

As a native and longtime Nashville resident now living in California, I found the recently published Guide to Jewish Nashville 2019 incredibly impressive and noteworthy.

With no disrespect to my new hometown of Santa Barbara, Jewish community life in Nashville is an amazing example of what truly can be accomplished through vision, hard work, collaboration and generosity. I also know Nashville Jewish life is what it is now because of the efforts of the generations and leaders of the past 180 years.

The Guide to Jewish Nashville is a proud showcase of the incredible efforts of so many that work to make sure that Nashville continues to have a strong, vibrant, diverse and proud Jewish community for the next centuries.

With admiration and appreciation,

Adam Liff

### STAFF

Publisher	Eric Stillman
Editor	Larry Brook
Advertising Manager	Carrie Mills
Editorial Board:	Frank Boehm (chair), Barbara Dab, Greg Goldberg, Scott Rosenberg, Liz Foster
Telephone	615/356-3242
Fax	615/352-0056
E-mail	editor@jewishnashville.org

### Editorial Submissions Policy and Deadlines

The Jewish Observer welcomes the submission of information, news items, feature stories and photos about events relevant to the Jewish community of Greater Nashville. We prefer e-mailed submissions, which should be sent as Word documents to editor@jewishnashville.org. Photos must be high resolution (at least 300 dpi) and should be attached as jpegs to the e-mail with the related news item or story. For material that can-not be e-mailed, submissions should be sent to The Jewish Observer, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Suite 102, Nashville TN 37205. Photos and copy sent by regular mail will not be returned unless prior arrangement is made. Publication is at the discretion of The Observer, which reserves the right to edit submissions.

To ensure publication, submissions must arrive by the 15th of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

For advertising deadlines, contact Carrie Mills, advertising manager, at 615-354-1699, or by email at carrie@nashvillejcc.org.

### Corrections Policy

The Jewish Observer is committed to making corrections and clarifications promptly. To request a correction or clarification, email editor@jewishnashville.org

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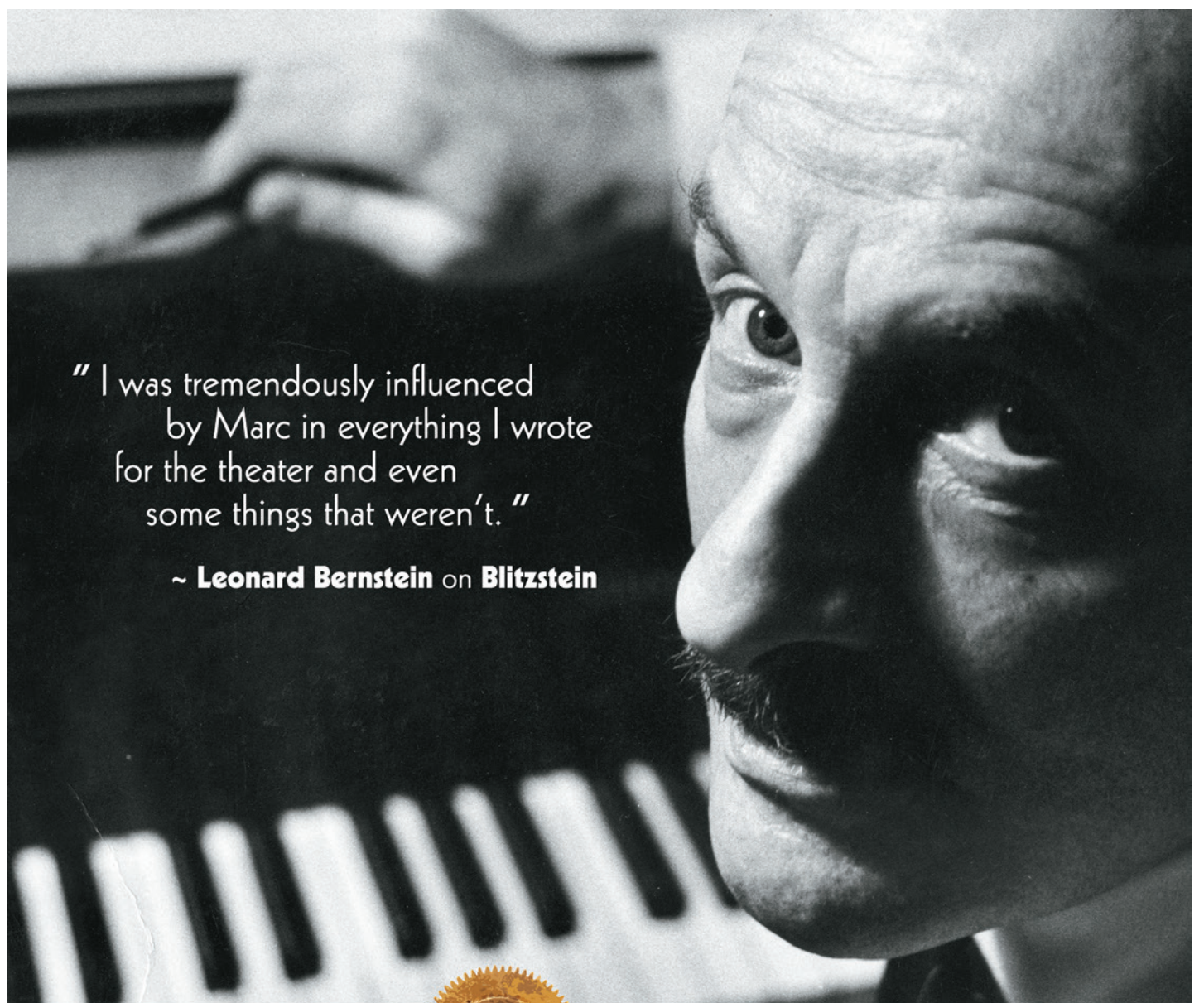
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"I was tremendously influenced by Marc in everything I wrote for the theater and even some things that weren't."

~ Leonard Bernstein on Blitzstein

# THE CRADLE WILL ROCK

MAY 10, 11, 12 | NOAH LIFF OPERA CENTER

THE ANN & FRANK BUMSTEAD PRODUCTION

**FREE PUBLIC EVENT**  
**APR 29, 7:30 | Gordon Jewish Community Center**

Join 91Classical's Colleen Phelps and Nashville Opera Artistic Director John Hoopes for an in-depth look at American composer Marc Blitzstein and his seminal work, the jazz opera THE CRADLE WILL ROCK. (As relevant today as it was when Orson Welles directed its 1937 debut, which the government tried to shut down!)

Enjoy live musical excerpts and a fascinating discussion about a voice silenced too soon—a musician who profoundly influenced the iconic Leonard Bernstein.

Photo by W. Weissman | Courtesy of the Weill-Lenya Research Center, Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, NY

**NASHVILLE OPERA 18.19**

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INGRAM METRO ARTS NASHVILLE OPERA GUILD TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION THE JUDY & NOAH LIFF FOUNDATION SUE & EARL SWENSSON



# Proclamation

Continued from page 1

In addition to Nashville, there were officials from the Jewish Federations of Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga in attendance.

Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Congregation Sherith Israel led the singing of "Hatikvah," Israel's national anthem, followed by Irlene Mandrell singing the "Star Spangled Banner."

Pody said he became friends with her as she has a "heart for standing up for what is right, for the troops, for Israel, for America."

Pody said he learned that Israel is the only nation in the world that has a deed given to them, "when God created the world and he spelled out the exact location of this nation."

He said "the heavens are recording this moment. I believe in the Bible, and I be-

lieve what God wrote, he meant."

Pody reiterated that Israel is "not a Democratic issue, it's not a Republican issue, this is a world issue, this is a Tennessee issue, and we are together" in standing with Israel.

While many of the speakers referenced the spiritual connection to Israel, there was also frequent mention of Israel as a technology and research powerhouse, the importance of military collaboration between the U.S. and Israel, and Israel as a trade partner for Tennessee businesses.

Secretary of State Tre Hargett said in the past, he hosted Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer, and "we discussed our unique bond and shared interests."

This ceremony "shows a lot of what we're about, when there are people in Washington who can't decide who our

friends are. Here in Tennessee, we know who our friend is," Hargett added.

Rabbi Joshua Kullock of West End Synagogue gave the opening prayer, praying "on behalf of the state of Israel, and we pray on behalf of the state of Tennessee."

He said "we are grateful to the state of Tennessee for standing strong with Israel."

Kullock emphasized Israel's diversity as a "country of immigrants, that beacon of light, that nation that is proud of its multicultural society."

He noted that there is a divine spark in



Rabbi Saul Strosberg sings "Hatikvah"

every person, so "may we always treat each other with dignity and respect."

Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad in Nashville said "I have been a proud Jew all my life, and I have been a proud Tennessean for the past 21 years. Today, standing here I feel like the proudest Jewish Tennessean that there has ever been."

He said one of the most "remarkable insights" of Jewish survival over the last 3,300 years is that when enemies arose, "we always had those who were there to support us, to hold our hands, to embrace us, to encourage us, and to ensure that we continue to survive and thrive."

"This is what this moment is all about," Tiechtel said, with the people of Tennessee standing together with Israel.

After Strosberg recited a few paragraphs from Israel's Declaration of Independence, the closing prayer was given by country music legend Ricky Skaggs, a passionate supporter of Israel. "I'm really overwhelmed at the goodness of the Lord" in witnessing the event, he said, reciting verses from Psalm 93.

He gave thanks "that we as Christians in humility started to understand that we are grafted onto the olive tree" of God's covenant with Israel, and that they are to "lift up and honor our brethren."

He concluded, "May Tennessee be blessed beyond measure."

A reception was held after the event, where Shorer commented that "no one could leave this event without being touched personally."

Solidarity events like this tell Israel "there is support. You're not alone," which, from her perspective as the daughter of Holocaust survivors, is very important to hear.

She was formally presented with a Tennessee state flag as a remembrance of the event.

The proclamation states that Israel "has long been, and remains, America's most reliable partner in the Middle East, with both nations bound closely by historic and cultural ties as well as by mutual interests."

It recognizes the "high number of exchanges with Israel" for the U.S., including "joint military exercises, military research, and weapons development," and cooperation in fighting terrorism.

"At this time of continued uncertainty in the world, Tennessee again desires to reaffirm its friendship with the Nation of Israel by expressing its unequivocal support for the Nation of Israel," the proclamation adds.

In April 2015, Tennessee became the first state to pass legislation condemning the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement that targets Israel. Many other states have followed suit, and in March, legislation passed to make Mississippi the 27th anti-BDS state.

## Come Be a Part of our First Night Seders!

### Friday, April 19, 2019

Join With Your Family, Relatives And Friends!



### Pick your Seder:

**Option 1:**  
**Interactive Seder for Families—**  
**5:30–6:30 p.m.**

*Led by Debby & Stuart Wiston*

Bring the Seder to life for your family with activities and songs. This interactive seder will have all generations up and out of their seats singing and dancing, as they recreate the Exodus from Egypt and the crossing of the Sea. Fun and informative for all generations.

Followed by a Seder meal.



**Option 2:**  
**Evening services at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Seder begins at 6:30 p.m.**

*Led by Rabbi Joshua Kullock  
& Cantor Sarah Levine*

Leaving Egypt Again: Take the Haggadah's advice to "see yourself as if you left Egypt" and learn how the Passover Seder can speak to each of our spiritual lives."

Followed by a Seder meal.

**RSVP to West End Synagogue by**  
**Friday, April 5, 2019**

Adults:.....\$45  
Ages 6–12 .....\$25  
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☎ 615-269-4592

✉ office@westendsyn.org

🏠 West End Synagogue  
3810 West End Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37205

📘 /WestEndSyn

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# Federation Condemns the New Zealand Mosque attack

Seven years ago it was the Sikh Temple near Milwaukee, Wisconsin where Sikh worshippers were murdered while gathering for prayer; four years ago it was Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina where Christian worshippers were murdered while gathering for Wednesday night prayer; last October, it was Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where Jewish worshippers were murdered during Shabbat morning services; on March 15, it was two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand where Muslim worshippers gathering for prayer were murdered.

In each instance, the alleged perpetrator exacted his wrath for the purpose of inciting conflict among peoples.

Hate knows no bounds of decency, and it is stoked by verbal and written words which are magnified through the use of social media and are coming from all sides of the political and ideological spectrum. We

condemn statements of hatred from and call upon leaders and elected officials to represent the highest ideals of our country. The victims of hate are young and old, believers and non-believers.

Hate can only be overcome by a communal refusal to accept its premise: that one person is better, more deserving, more powerful than another because of race, religion, or gender.

The Jewish community of Nashville and Middle Tennessee stands with our neighbors who oppose such hatred and bigotry, and we grieve with the Muslim community of Christchurch and the people of New Zealand who persevere in the aftermath of the horror of March 15.

*Lisa Perlen, President  
Eric Stillman, Executive Director*

*Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of  
Nashville & Middle Tennessee*

## New Jewish community choir being formed

**Open auditions being held at Gordon JCC on April 9**

Ready to sing?

A Nashville Jewish Community Choir is being formed at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, with auditions on April 9.

The idea came from Anat Rubinstein, who has been a choral director in Israel. A newcomer to Nashville, she was surprised that a city with such a musical reputation has not been as strong in the choral arts.

She suggested the idea of starting a choir at the JCC, featuring a variety of genres and styles of music. After the choir is formed, she will see what types of music are preferred by the participants.

Rubinstein originally pursued a degree in nursing, and was a registered nurse at Hadassah Medical Center in Israel from 2000 to 2010. She became choral director and music teacher at Ohavay Zion in Lexington, Ky., then at Moresheet Israel Conservative Synagogue as she pursued a master's in musicology at Hebrew University. She became a choral director in that department as she completed her doctorate in 2018, exploring the life and works of Cantor Pinkhas Minkowsky, an influential figure in Odessa in the early 20th century.

She has been guest speaker at the Lewandowsky Festival 2015 in Berlin, as well as a presenter at several other conferences and university classes.

She was guest conductor for Holidays on the Hill last December at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.



Anat Rubinstein

The auditions on April 9 will be in the senior lounge, and rehearsals will begin on April 18 and continue every Thursday.

Michal Eskenazi Becker, adult outreach coordinator at the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and the Gordon JCC, said when Rubinstein approached the JCC with the plan, "we loved the idea and we hope many people will like it too."

She added that this is another example of a newcomer stepping forward with a great idea for the community.

## "The Odd Couple" at Gordon JCC

The JCC Drama Club presents "The Odd Couple," April 14 at 2 and 6 p.m. Directed by the extremely talented Suzanne Burns, a longtime member of the Nashville theater scene, and past director of several JCC performances, the play is being run in homage to the late playwright Neil Simon and his incredible talent. Felix Unger, Oscar Madison, and their card-playing crew will delight you with their frolicking mirth and comedy. You don't want to miss this hilarious showing.

Check out [nashvillejcc.org/drama](http://nashvillejcc.org/drama) for more info.



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## Restoring the Memory

Work progressing at Nashville Holocaust Memorial

By **LARRY BROOK**

After a challenging couple of years, there is an effort underway to restore the Nashville Holocaust Memorial on the Gordon Jewish Community Center campus, and raise funds for perpetual maintenance.

Many of the issues were exacerbated by an April 2016 fire at the Gordon JCC's Lower Pavilion, the structure closest to the memorial – and which housed the electrical and irrigation connections for the memorial.

Leslie Sax, executive director of the JCC, said there were unforeseen delays in getting the pavilion rebuilt and power restored. One hurdle was that any new construction had to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Without electricity, many of the memorial's features could not work, nor could the irrigation system, which has led to futility in efforts to landscape.

Part of the need to landscape is to place more of a separation between the memorial and the new Adventure Park that opened on the campus last summer.

Sax said the Adventure Park, consisting of aerial trails and zip lines, is high up in the trees and generally not that noticeable from the memorial, but this winter, when the trees were bare, it became more visible.

There are plans to plant tall evergreens between the memorial and the park to help the situation.

Sax noted that the Adventure Park tries to limit activities when it is known that there will be events at the memorial. They also have brochures about the memorial at the park entrance, giving the memorial more exposure to those who may not realize it exists. "The more we create awareness, the better it is," Sax said.

Felicia Anchor, who is the memorial's lead volunteer, said they have made several attempts at landscaping over the last couple of years. "The deer love it, the squirrels love it," but in addition to dealing with the wildlife, the plants haven't loved the lack of irrigation.

There has also been a recurring problem with twigs and leaves from storms. Sax noted that the site is naturally windy, exacerbating the problem.

Anchor said they launched a drive for a \$180,000 endowment fund for perpetual maintenance at the 10th anniversary. They are about half-way there and hope to make more progress.

The memorial was established after Holocaust survivor Esther Loeb commented that unlike many other communities, Nashville did not have a Holocaust memorial. She spoke with Anchor, who was born to Holocaust survivors in the Ber-

gen-Belsen displaced persons camp after the war.

Anchor, who moved to Nashville in 1972, had a "fundamental interest" in learning about the Holocaust, and got to know members of the survivor community in Nashville.

Anchor convened a committee, which spurred the Gordon JCC to donate land for the memorial. They wanted it to be an outdoor memorial, and turned to architect Manual Zeitlin, who donated his services in designing the master plan.

It was quickly agreed that the memorial should focus on Nashvillians and their families, "so it connects to us as a community."

The focal point of the memorial is a sculpture by Alex Limor, son of survivors. He had picked up his father's interest in metal sculpture, and used one of his father's visions for the memorial – a sculpture of the Book of the Jewish People, but with the middle of it torn out.

It took about two years to raise the funds for construction, and it was dedicated in October 2006. About 400 attended the ceremony, including the mayor and Congressman.

Part of the idea was to have the memorial be self-guided, so Steve Rich figured out a system where four stations have a narrative that can be played by visitors, explaining the significance of that section. That system has been awaiting the restoration of electricity.

The memorial's granite walls gave Nashvillians an opportunity to memorialize their loved ones. For most, there is no grave, so this is the only memorial they have. The granite walls had to be placed on concrete slabs, with the unforeseen result that those slabs are now a place where visitors place rocks in remembrance.

The memorial's website expands on the roughly 300 names, offering brief biographies of most of the victims. Eighteen chairs face the walls.

Anchor said hundreds of school groups and church groups have been to the site.

Sax said that she and Federation CRC Director Deborah Oleshansky are looking to start a docent group for the memorial, as they get calls from local schools and out-of-town groups looking for guided tours. They plan to list it on the new Jewish community volunteer portal, but those who are interested can also contact them.

The community Holocaust commemoration will be held at the memorial on May 5 at 2 p.m., with speaker Sarah May, granddaughter of survivor Rosemary May, and music by Akiva students and Violins of Hope.



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# At Our Congregations...



## Rabbi Kullok joining post- "Wiesenthal" Q&A

Following the exclusive Nashville performance of "Wiesenthal" (Nazi Hunter) at WES on April 4 at 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Joshua Kullock will join actor/writer Tom Dugan for an engaging post show Q&A. "Wiesenthal" is the Off-Broadway hit now on tour throughout North America with over 150 performances scheduled in 2019. Acclaimed international actor Tom Dugan portrays Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor who dedicated his life to bringing to justice over 1100 Nazi war criminals. The WES Nashville engagement immediately follows three performances in Pittsburgh as fundraiser for the rebuilding of Tree Of Life Synagogue. A portion of the proceeds from our Nashville show will go to benefit WES.

Tickets may be purchased on line at [www.wiesenthaltheshow.com](http://www.wiesenthaltheshow.com) or by calling (866) 811-4111.

WES member Jay Kholos is producing the North American tour.

## Jewish Comic Haggadah Workshop

Illustrate your own Haggadah for Pesach, with Jordan Gorfinkel, veteran editor of DC Comics. This is a great family or intergenerational activity for 2nd graders to 120-ers, for the young and the young-at-heart who love telling Jewish stories. The Beit Miriam program will be on April 17 at 4:30 p.m. There is no charge for Beit Miriam families, \$10 per family for non-members. For more information, contact: Sharon Paz [spaz@westendsyn.org](mailto:spaz@westendsyn.org)



## Golden Lunch Bunch

Join the Golden Lunch Bunch for lunch, entertainment and fun at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at The Temple. This month's gatherings are April 2 and 16. To reserve, call Anna Sir, 354-1686.

## Crafternoon at The Temple!

Come join the Caring Connection Committee one Sunday a month for an afternoon of fun, creativity and a way to give back to our congregation.

Our next Crafternoon will be on April 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. Come for as long as you wish! We'll have a craft each month, such as handmade note cards, knitting hats, blankets, etc., for people to work on together, or you can bring your own project to work on. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to crafting with you!

## Tot Shabbat

On April 13 at 10 a.m., come help us celebrate Passover with our Tot Shabbat in The Temple Big Room. It is a musical Shabbat Experience for children up to 6 years old and the big people that love them! We'll have songs, crafts, a story and yummy treats! Join Rabbi Mackler, Cantor Fishbein and Ms. Jan for a great Tot Shabbat!

## Blood Drive

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood, and about 44,000 pints of blood are needed in the U.S. every day. Almost everyone will know someone in their lifetime who has needed blood. The Temple will host a blood drive on April 14 starting at 9 a.m., with the last appointment at 2 p.m. It takes approximately an hour to donate blood.

Questions? Contact Peako at [peako.jenkins@gmail.com](mailto:peako.jenkins@gmail.com) (205) 915-8505, or Brian at [brianbauer247@gmail.com](mailto:brianbauer247@gmail.com), (847) 858-1088.

## Hike & Havdalah At Percy Warner Park

Presented by The Temple's Worship and Music Committee, Hike and Havdalah will be on April 6. Meet at the top of the steps at the end of Belle Meade Boulevard at 2:45 p.m. with the hike of the 2.5 mile white trail to begin at 3 p.m. Meet at the stone gate entrance to the park at 4:30 p.m. for Havdalah. All ages welcome. Bring friends and family; if you are not hiking, please meet us for Havdalah.

## Confirmation, Post Confirmation

The Temple's Post-Confirmation graduation will be held on April 26 at the 6 p.m. Shabbat service, while Confirmation will be held on April 27 during the 11 a.m. service.



## Chabad to host the Moshiah Seudah

Passover begins with a meal and now ends with a meal. On the last night of Passover, on April 27 at 7 p.m., Chabad will host the Moshiah Seudah (the Messiah's meal). All are invited for the traditional feast, inspirational stories, songs, matzah and four cups of wine, in anticipation of the future redemption with Moshiah.

Instituted by the Baal Shem Tov 300 years ago, the traditional Moshiah's Meal includes the eating matzah and the consumption of four glasses of wine, toasting to a futuristic era of redemption. The Baal Shemtov would make a festive meal at the close of the holiday, dedicated to the coming of Moshiah. Since then Jews throughout the world come together on the last day of Pesach to celebrate this unique custom.

For more information go to [www.chabadnashville.com](http://www.chabadnashville.com)

## Chabad of Nashville goes to the Heights

Imagine that the Shtetl of Europe has been frozen in time, transported to New York, and then unfrozen. Imagine walking down the main street and seeing the Judaica shops, hearing the sounds of yeshiva students studying the Talmud, smelling the aromas of the freshly baked Challah wafting from the local kosher bakeries, while seeing signs Hebrew and Yiddish and shuls at every corner, while the skyscrapers of Manhattan rise in the distance.

Chabad of Nashville invites the Nashville community to experience this at Shabbat in the Heights.

When Nancy Miller of Pasadena, Calif., arrived in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn last April, she knew this would be unlike any other trip she had taken. Miller, an immigration lawyer, had traveled all over the world, but on this weekend, she was hoping to gain something more meaningful.

"By the end of the weekend," she said, "It felt like the whole community in Crown Heights had opened their homes and hearts to welcome us."

Miller and 120 others from Jewish communities across the United States participated in Shabbat in the Heights Shabbaton in the neighborhood of the Chabad Lubavitch headquarters. The Shabbaton, taking place this year from May 17 to 19, enables one to experience Chassidic life in a personal way.

Throughout Shabbat, guest lecturers and study groups provide opportunities to study the Rebbe's teachings and illuminating perspective on life and its purpose. A guided tour of the Rebbe's synagogue, office and home allows a glimpse into life with the Rebbe and insight into how he inspired his thousands of emissaries, leaders in their own right, in Jewish communities in every corner of the globe.

Nashville will be well-represented this year with a group led by Rabbi Yitzchak and Esther Tiechtel, with Chabad of Nashville. "Living in Nashville and working in the community for more than 20 years makes Nashville home, but a big piece of my heart is always in Crown Heights where I grew up" said Rabbi Tiechtel. "I can't wait to share it with my friends from the Nashville community."

Like many of last year's Shabbaton participants, Nancy Miller plans to join again this year. The all-inclusive weekend feels like a retreat, complete with authentic Jewish cuisine, and eclectic Chasidic entertainment, providing a much-needed boost of spiritual energy, which she will carry over into her work, living of a more meaningful life.

To learn more about Shabbat in the Heights please go to [www.shabbatintheheights.com](http://www.shabbatintheheights.com) or call Chabad at (615) 646-5750.

## Chabad distributing Shmura matzah, selling chametz for community

Chabad of Nashville is giving out a free Passover Shmura Matzah for your Seder. All you need to do is email your name and contact information to [chabdnashville@gmail.com](mailto:chabdnashville@gmail.com) and you will receive your free Matzah gift box for your Seder.

Shmura Matzah from Israel can also be purchased in one pound boxes from the Chabad office at \$28 per pound. For more information call Chabad at (615) 646-5750.

### Selling Chametz

According to Jewish Law during Passover all types of Chametz (leavened foods) are prohibited to be owned by anyone of the Jewish faith.

What is one to do with all of the leavened food in their home during Passover? The rabbis in ancient biblical days came up with a solution. One can authorize their rabbi before Passover to sell their Chametz to a non-Jew, who is permitted to own it during Passover. After the holiday is over, the Chametz is sold back to the rabbi, and one is permitted then to benefit from it.

Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel at Chabad of Nashville is offering to sell the Chametz of anyone wishing to fulfill this special tradition for Passover, thus taking Passover 2019 to the next level.

Go to [chabadnashville.com/chametz](http://chabadnashville.com/chametz) to fill out the online form to do this.



# At Our Congregations...



## Micah Readers

The book club meets every first Friday of the month in the library after services. The April 5 book is "The Great Gatsby," by F. Scott Fitzgerald

## Chava Mirel – Singer/Songwriter in Residence

Singer, composer and multi-instrumentalist Chava Mirel will be the singer/songwriter in residence for several events at Congregation Micah the weekend of April 11.

Based in Seattle, her works explore themes of gratitude, self-acceptance, balance and responsibility for each other. She has opened for and collaborated with legendary artists Cachao, Arturo Sandoval, Israel Vibration and Fishbone. Mirel now plays and tours with Clinton Fearon of the Gladiators, and is the featured vocalist for global jazz fusion band Duende Libre.

She will be at the Interfaith Women's Seder on April 11 at 7 p.m. On April 12, she will be at the 11 a.m. Tot Shabbat at Micah Children's Academy, then have a Sermon in Song during the 6 p.m. Shabbat service.

On April 13, she will lead Mazel Tots, a family-friendly 10:30 a.m. family-friendly Shabbat service. She will then be at the Havdalah for Big Hair, Bourbon and Biscuits at 6 p.m.

On April 14, she will hold a community high school concert with Jewish Family Service at 10:30 a.m.

## Women's Grief Group

If you are a woman and managing grief due to loss of some kind, you are invited to join us at Congregation Micah. This group meets twice a month on Thursday afternoons, this month's meetings will be April 11 and 25 at 2 p.m. E-mail Rabbi Laurie for more information at [lrice@congregationmicah.org](mailto:lrice@congregationmicah.org)

## Big Hair, Bourbon, and Biscuits

Micah's fundraiser will be April 13 at 6 p.m.! Dinner, open bar, bourbon pull, silent auction, and amazing entertainment by The Doyle & Debbie show! To RSVP and purchase tickets, visit [www.congregationmicah.org/events](http://www.congregationmicah.org/events)

## Men's Grief Group

If you are a man and managing grief due to loss of some kind, you are invited to join us on April 18 at 2 p.m. E-mail Rabbi Laurie for more information at [lrice@congregationmicah.org](mailto:lrice@congregationmicah.org)

## Shalom, Israel

An interactive, virtual tour of Eretz Yisrael. You are invited to make aliyah with your fellow 1st graders from the Nashville Jewish Community, April 28 at 9:30 a.m.



Happy Passover!

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## Yom HaShoah Lunch & Learn

On May 12 at 11:30 a.m., following Schmooze and Views, Frances Cutler Hahn will share her story. Lunch will be provided.

## A Woman's Circle

A monthly opportunity to grow your soul, meet with other women and engage with sacred text. Rabbi Laurie challenges your intellect through study and conversation on Jewish and other relevant topics. All are welcome to the April 26 class at noon. Bring a friend. Lunch is provided. RSVP to Rabbi Laurie Rice at [lrice@congregationmicah.org](mailto:lrice@congregationmicah.org)

## Nashville's congregations

Here are the websites for all five Nashville Jewish congregations, with information on services, upcoming events and more:

**Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad**, [www.chabadnashville.com](http://www.chabadnashville.com)

**Congregation Micah**, [www.congregationmicah.org](http://www.congregationmicah.org)

**Congregation Sherith Israel**, [www.sherithisrael.com](http://www.sherithisrael.com)

**The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Shalom**, [www.templenashville.org](http://www.templenashville.org)

**West End Synagogue**, [www.westendsyn.org](http://www.westendsyn.org)



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# From Akiva to the World

*The Values Given to an Aspiring Jewish Leader*

By **SAM PERLEN**

Every morning at assembly, we would sing the school anthem. Looking back now, over 10 years after my graduation, one line defines the value that Akiva has brought to our community. "In the hills of Nashville, built by our community, teaching Jewish children our traditions and history." To this day, I remember that one line because to me, it symbolizes the foundation that Akiva helped lay for me and hundreds of others.

In a small yet growing Jewish community like Nashville, it is important there are Jewish leaders who can be prepared to lead when called upon to serve. Akiva, being the only Jewish Day School in the city, has an incredibly important responsibility, and that is to set the foundation for those aspiring Jewish leaders. After my seven years at Akiva, I feel confident that I have had the proper foundation starting from a young age to develop into a leader.

Being a Jewish leader entails many qualities, but the ones I value the most are: a connection to the local and global Jewish community, comprehending the value of family, an understanding of Jewish history, a connection to Israel, the desire to help others and do tzedakah. I aspire to live these values every day, and these values were taught to me over my seven years at Akiva.

Community and family are two things I hold close to my heart. This may be because my family is so vast, but I think it is because over the years community and family have intertwined to mean the same thing to me. In everything I have done I have valued my connection to community and family.

In my five years of BBYO, the friends that I made in this amazing organization feel like my extended family. I was driven from a young age to be involved in Jewish life due to the importance of a continued connection to my Judaism, but it was my family that lead me to BBYO. Once I joined, I was able to call upon the foundation set at Akiva, and be a part of building Jewish communities all around the world, whether in Savannah, Georgia or Tbilisi, Georgia.

My passion for Jewish leadership with values learned at Akiva took me to the

highest role in BBYO as Grand Aleph Godol. I carried the example of my own community in Nashville and the leadership skills learned at Akiva to Jewish communities around the world.

From the beginning of my Akiva education, Israel was a focus. We learned about the eternal connection between the land of Israel and the Jewish people, but also about the cultural life of modern Israel. With a strong background and understanding of the land, it was important for me to spend as much time in Israel and become an advocate for Israel.

My first visit to Israel was with my friends from the Nashville community on Get Connected, many of those friends were my Akiva classmates. Getting to travel to a land I was taught about from the earliest days at Akiva with my home community was incredibly powerful. Getting to actually put a note in the Western Wall myself instead of giving them to my Israeli teachers for many years was a feeling that every Jewish person should get to experience.

Above all else, Akiva taught me the value of 'Tikkun Olam' and 'Tzedakah.' Some of my fondest memories are from my activity in the Akiva Cares club. In Akiva Cares, we focused on ways we could make an impact in our community, whether it was leading English reading camps in the summer for Somali refugees or playing bingo at Brookdale Senior Living.

Having someone in the community specifically leading by example is important too and, in this case, it was my dad, Joe Perlen, known to many as "Chef Joe". Seeing my dad volunteer at Akiva in the kitchen still continues to be an example for volunteerism to me and many others, and there is no better place to do this than at the place my brother Will and I attended.

As I continue to embark on new opportunities near and far, I turn back to my time at Akiva as a central reason as to why I am able to stand tall as a Jewish leader and cherish the value of community. My seven years at Akiva are the reason I care so much about being a part of a global Jewish community, and most importantly I learned this lesson at Nashville's Jewish treasure, Akiva School.

## Hillel's Brian Small receives Gift of Life national honor

Vanderbilt Hillel Assistant Director Brian Small received the Celebrating Life Adam Krief z"l Award from the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry.

The ceremony was held at the Celebrating Life Los Angeles gala on March 7 at SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Gift of Life was founded in 1991 when Jay Feinberg was diagnosed with leukemia and there were no bone marrow matches for him in the registry. Family members started an awareness campaign leading to 60,000 potential donors and, after four years, a match for him.

The organization promotes cheek-swabbing events to get more people on the registry, along with spreading awareness of blood cancers and what can be done about them.

Jeremie Braun, last year's recipient, presented the award, saying Small had instituted a "peer ambassadors" program to recruit students. Last October, he spearheaded a drive that resulted in 866 students being swabbed for the registry, but before that, he had done a similar drive at Syracuse University with over 2,000 students. From the Syracuse drive, there have already been 15 life-saving matches, and Braun said he was also presenting the award to Small on their behalf.

Small said the students at Syracuse and Vanderbilt are his heroes, "and I accept this award on their behalf as well."

He said the students teach him to dream big. "They don't want a drive, they want the biggest drive. They don't want to heal one person, they want to heal the world."





# HAPPY PASSOVER



Every Passover, Elijah has a standing invitation. No matter what, we open our door, set a place at our table and fill his cup at the Seder. This year, let's do the same for those in need. No matter what.

Please give to Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of Nashville & Middle TN. By giving, you open up the door to our Jewish future and do a world of good to help the Jewish people.

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# What Will Be Your Legacy?

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's Professional Advisory Council seminars are a service offered to the Nashville Jewish community, providing education on financial and estate planning.

This year, participants who attended the seminars obtained free advice on how their financial picture fits into their overall estate and philanthropic planning goals. Participation is expected to increase as community members begin formalizing their plans to leave after-lifetime gifts to the Nashville Jewish community during Year 3 of the Life & Legacy program.

The PAC, consisting of estate planning attorneys, accountants, financial planners and wealth managers, presented its final seminar of the spring, "Legacy Options: Life Insurance, Trusts, and IRAs," on Feb. 28. The presenters included Michael Levine and Rodney Rosenblum, as well as panelists Eva Pulley and Ralph Levy, moderated by PAC chair Marty Satinsky. "I enjoyed listening to the presentations and having an opportunity to ask my own questions and listen to the multiple perspectives of the panelists," said one participant.

The seminars that will be offered in the fall and spring during both lunchtime and evening hours are the following:

**Seminar 1:** Wills, Power of Attorney, Trusts

**Seminar 2:** Financial Planning

**Seminar 3:** Estate Planning and Philanthropy — What's the Connection?

**Seminar 4:** Legacy Options: Life insurance, IRAs and Trusts

The Nashville Jewish community is participating in the Life & Legacy program, a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, that promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit the entire Jewish community, including synagogues, local and overseas Jewish agencies, schools and other Jewish organizations. There are a total of 13 Jewish organizations participating in the Life & Legacy program.

For questions about the Professional Advisory Council or upcoming seminar dates, contact Shannon Small at (615) 354-1651 or shannon@jewishnashville.org.



## Akiva students leading Holocaust commemoration

The community is invited as the Akiva School sixth grade leads a Holocaust memorial ceremony on May 2 at 8 a.m. They will lead a procession from the school's front door to the Holocaust memorial.

## Akiva

*Continued from front page*

means to an end.

When the second graders made presentations about African-American leaders during Black History Month, they used PowerPoint in their talks.

Pressner said there is an emphasis on curiosity and "design thinking." Science fairs are about the end process, she said, but this emphasizes "what step of the learning processes" students are in.

To become certified, Akiva first had to document three years of its STEAM programming and professional development, showing how they integrated STEAM "into all parts of the curricular experience."

After providing documentation that reached the threshold, there was a process where the school was evaluated on a 1-to-4 scale, and the school had to provide links to relevant documentation on each topic.

Pressner highlighted some of the programs that have fallen under the STEAM umbrella. For the second year, Akiva hosted a national dreidel-making contest.

For Tu B'Shevat, the students created trees that produce something they wish there was more of the world — where examples of what the tree could grow included "kindness, healthy eating, taking care of the community and environment." In addition to creating the trees, they wrote artist statements, and three of the trees were displayed at the Tennessee Arbor Day celebration.

A discussion of whether clothes make the person or vice versa was sparked by the story of Joseph in the Torah. In general studies, students interviewed professionals who wear uniforms, then designed new uniforms based on the needs of those who wear them.

After the 17 categories were evaluated, Pressner said "they reported us to be one of the highest scores they had ever seen."

There was a site visit by representatives of AdvancED, where they sat in on each classroom, interviewed faculty, parents and students, along with board members and community members.

The accreditation is valid for five years, and there are currently about 150 schools in the U.S. that have been accredited.

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# "Simpsons" writer to discuss Springfield experiences

The Jewish Book Series continues with... Donuts!

In celebration of "The Simpsons" 30th anniversary, there are few better suited to bring an inside look at the making of one of the most famous shows in television history than Mike Reiss, one of the longest-running writers on the show.

Reiss, a four-time Emmy winner, has worked on "The Simpsons" continuously since the first episode in 1989. He will share stories, scandals and gossip about working with America's most iconic cartoon family ever.

He will speak at the Gordon Jewish Community Center on April 4 at 7 p.m. In honor of Homer Simpson, there will be beer and donuts from The Donut Den starting at 6 p.m.

The day before The Simpsons premiered in December 1989, Reiss was sitting in the trailer with the other writers when he asked the question that was on everyone's minds: "How long do you think this show will last?" Everyone had the same answer. Six weeks. Only Sam Simon was optimistic. "I think it will last thirteen weeks," he said. "But don't worry. No one will ever see it. It won't hurt your career." He was right about that part — no one's career was hurt.

Now an international sensation, The Simpsons is the longest-running animated sitcom of all time, and Reiss is one of the few writers, producers and showrunners who has worked on the series since the very beginning.

In the discussion of his book, "Springfield Confidential: Jokes, Secrets and Outright Lies from a Lifetime Writing for The Simpsons," Reiss will explain how the episodes are created, and provide an inside look at the show's writers, animators, actors and celebrity guests. He answers a range of questions from Simpsons fans and die-hards, and reminisces about the making of perennially favorite episodes.

In his freewheeling, irreverent comic style, Reiss reflects on his lifetime inside "The Simpsons" — a personal highlights reel of his achievements, observations and favorite stories. "Springfield Confidential" exposes why Matt Groening decided to make all of the characters yellow; dishes on what it's like to be crammed in a room full of funny writers 60 hours a week; and tells what Reiss learned after traveling to 71 countries where The Simpsons is aired, and even reveals where Springfield is located!

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. The event is open to the community, and books will be available for purchase.



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## Jewish Entrepreneurs Find Community and Opportunity in Nashville

The Nashville Jewish Entrepreneurs Forum, which launched in 2018, is designed to bring together founders, owners and CEOs from non-competing companies to advise and discuss business topics. Each month, the group gathers to address professional challenges and provide candid feedback and strategic recommendations to overcome business roadblocks, all while developing a strong business and support network.

"Owning and managing a business can sometimes feel like living on a deserted island. It's been invaluable to have a group of peers who have experienced similar challenges and successes from building and growing their Nashville-based company," said Brian Bauer, president of Bauer Entertainment Marketing.

The group is planning to expand and bring in additional members this spring, and encourages founders, owners or CEOs of revenue-producing Nashville-based companies to join the NJEF and strengthen their business through peer support. The group boasts a diversity of professional fields include marketing, technology, and legal, among others.

Contact [joel@jewishnashville.org](mailto:joel@jewishnashville.org) for questions and more information.



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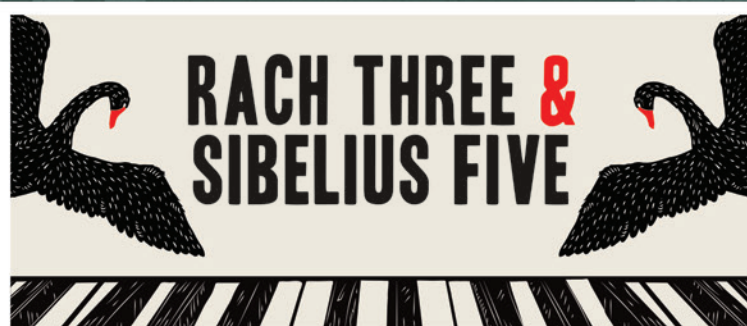


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# Nashville Seders

## Chabad of Nashville

Chabad of Nashville invites the Nashville Jewish community to its 19th annual **Community Passover Seders**.

Participants will experience the freedom of Passover the way our ancestors did when they left Egypt 3,331 years ago. Chabad will host two different types of Seder on the first two nights of Passover.

On April 19 at 7 p.m., Chabad will host a "A Cliff Notes Family Friendly Seder." It will be an interactive family Seder, a warm, fun and thought-provoking event, which includes a Passover Experience in a Royal setting, handmade Shmurah Matzah for each Seder participant, an abundance of exquisite wines for every palate, an elegant royal dinner, which will include authentic gefilte fish, Bubby's Passover Brisket, and array of salad and side dishes.

On April 20 at 8 p.m., Chabad will host "A Chassidic Seder for the Inquisitive Mind." This will be a full Chassidic Seder with many insights to the Haggadah and various Chassidic tales and melodies, and an exquisite Seder feast. This Seder will delve into the deeper meaning and dimensions to the Passover Exodus.

Both Seders will take place in the Bernard Ballroom at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life, and will be catered by one of Nashville's premiere chefs.

Reservation for each seder are \$55 per person 10 and up, \$35 for ages 4 to 9, 3 and under is free, if reserved by April 4. RSVP at [www.chabadnashville.com](http://www.chabadnashville.com).

## Congregation Micah

Celebrating diversity, inclusion, and freedom for all women, the **Women's Interfaith Passover Seder** is a joint program with Congregation Micah, The Temple, and Vanderbilt Hillel. It will feature singer-songwriter in residence Chava Mirel. The Seder will be on April 11 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Micah. Free and open to all women (and men!). Sponsored by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville. To RSVP, visit [www.congregationmicah.org/events](http://www.congregationmicah.org/events)

Congregation Micah's annual **Interactive Seder** on April 19 at 6 p.m. includes a full celebratory meal, with traditional Passover trimmings. Early bird prices are available until April 5! To RSVP and purchase tickets to the dinner, visit [www.congregationmicah.org/events](http://www.congregationmicah.org/events).

## Sherith Israel

Join Sherith Israel for a fun, spirited, and engaging **Community Seder** this Passover. First Seder on April 19 will be at 7:30 p.m., hosted by Cantor George Lieberman and Rabbi Saul Strosberg. Second Seder on April 20 at 8 p.m. will be hosted by Cantor Lieberman.

The Seders are catered by SOVA, and if reservations are received before April 12, the cost is \$36 per adult, \$20 for ages 5-12, \$125 limit per family. No one will be turned away due to financial hardship — anyone needing a reduced rate should mention the word "kehillah" when making a reservation. Reserve by contacting Janet at [csi3600@comcast.net](mailto:csi3600@comcast.net) or (615) 292-6614, ext. 21.

## The Temple

For information on the joint Women's Seder on April 11, see the above listing under Congregation Micah.

The preschool will hold its **Model Seder** on April 18 at 9:30 a.m.

On April 19, there will be a first night **Seder for Interfaith Couples** under age 40, at the home of Rabbi Michael Schulman. Come as you are and celebrate Passover together in a welcoming environment with delicious foods and an interactive Seder. Reservations are \$30 per couple for the 6:30 p.m. Seder, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Reserve to Rabbi Michael Shulman at [rabbishulman@templenashville.org](mailto:rabbishulman@templenashville.org)

A festive, family-friendly second night **Seder** will be at The Temple at 6 p.m. on April 20, led by Rabbi Mark Schifftan and Cantor Tracy Fishbein. Reservations are due at The Temple by April 12, and are \$35 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3 to 11, and \$45 for non-member guests.

On April 24, The Temple will host a **GLBT/PFLAG Seder** at 6 p.m. The Seder will be led by Rabbi Shana Mackler, Rabbi Michael Shulman and Cantor Tracy Fishbein. Reservations are \$15 and must be received by April 2. For additional information, call The Temple (615) 352-7620, or Robb McCluskey, (615) 568-1786 or [robbmclcluskey@gmail.com](mailto:robbmclcluskey@gmail.com).

Dessert and drinks with a fun, alternative and sweet Seder experience! It's the **Young Adult Chocolate Seder** at the Tempered Chocolate Café in Germantown, April 25 at 6 p.m. Reservations are \$12 per person for wine and chocolate pairings, plus lots of scrumptious chocolate treats! RSVP by April 15 to Rabbi Michael Shulman at [rabbishulman@templenashville.org](mailto:rabbishulman@templenashville.org).

## West End Synagogue

Pick your **Seder** and be part of the first night of Passover at West End Synagogue!

On April 19, there are two choices. Debby Wiston will lead an interactive Seder at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Seder meal. Or, there will be an adult Seder led by Rabbi Joshua Kull-ock and Cantor Sarah Levine. Evening services will be at 6 p.m., with the Seder starting at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are requested by April 5. For members, adult reservations are \$45, ages 6 to 12 are \$25, ages 3 to 6 are \$10, and there is no charge under age 3. Non-members are \$60.

Reserve by emailing [office@westendsyn.org](mailto:office@westendsyn.org) or calling (615) 269-4592, ext. 11.

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# A collection of Llamas at GJCC in April

The Gordon Jewish Community Center's April art exhibit will feature the work of Kristin Llamas, Garrett Mills, Lynne Feldman and Deborah Gross-Zuchman.

The Janet Levine March Gallery will feature the work of Kristin Llamas, a contemporary artist whose work is guided by a belief that art unites community. She creates large scale paintings, illustrations, and art installations based on questions she asks the public.

When she was 22, Llamas created her first solo museum exhibit by traveling to all 50 states, painting 50 canvases over 13 months. Each painting represented the community, landscape and history within the state she visited. The vision behind "The Nomadic Project" series is to "Unite America through Art." It toured nationally and internationally, with pieces residing in the permanent collections around the country, including the Tennessee State Museum.

The artist's recent series titled the "Socratic Dialogues" was created for the Parthenon Museum in Nashville, and illustrates Socratic questioning based on virtues such as Truth, Honor, Courage, Justice. The art touches on heavy themes, however it can also be seen as playful or satirical in nature.

Llamas is most widely known for her ¿Como te Llamas? collection. Here, she plays upon her own last name to study the stories behind everyone's name. She encourages individuals submit their naming stories (Why were you given that name? Do you relate to it?) and in return, she creates each name as a drawing of a llama... yes, the animal.

Llamas also works collaboratively on installations ranging from small gallery pieces to city-wide installations with her husband, Alfonso Llamas. The artist couple together makes up the husband and wife artist team, AK Llamas. The main subject in their installations is a pink flower which they call an Amaranth. This is Greek symbolism for the "never fading flower." Their installation work was exhibited down three city blocks in Nashville, was selected for the Nashville International Airport and exhibited throughout the U.S., France, Greece, Italy and Switzerland.

The Llamases and their three daughters made Nashville their home in 2008. Here, she continues to develop new work and commissions that benefit social causes. Llamas is founder of The YOUnite Tour, an international art movement that spans 56 countries, and has spoken at events around the United States, including a presentation with TEDx Nashville.

The JLMG2 Gallery will feature the work of Garrett Mills. Mills is a fashion photographer and award-winning photo-journalist. He graduated George Washington University with a degree in International Relations. While at GW he photographed for the Hatchet and was privy to all the events at the White House.

He has worked in Israel for the Flash 90 photojournalism agency and for Michael Kors in New York as visual assistant in their Rockefeller Center location. During a year abroad in Tokyo he photographed for the fashion magazine ENJI. He currently teams with his mother, Carrie Mills, a fashion stylist and art director, working with modeling agencies both here



and in New York, helping to build model portfolios. Mills is available for personal or corporate headshots and creative portraiture work.

The Sig Held Gallery will host a Pass-over-themed exhibit featuring the work of Lynne Feldman and Deborah Gross-Zuchman. Feldman's works have been featured in and on the covers of Hadassah, Lilit, Moment and Tikkun magazines, as well as many newspapers and magazines in the United States and around the world.

Her Judaic paintings have been featured on cards in the Hallmark Tree of Life series and on greeting cards published by the United Jewish Appeal, The Simon Wiesenthal Center and B'nai B'rith. Her paintings, illustrations, serigraphs and collages have been exhibited at museums, galleries, universities and other public institutions around the country. In 1992 she was awarded the Simon Rockower award for illustration in journalism and in 1996 she was commissioned by Millbrook Press to illustrate Good Yontif -A Picture Book of the Jewish Year.

Gross-Zuchman, a Philadelphia painter, was an art demonstration teacher and taught in the Philadelphia public schools for 35 years. She also worked as a project manager for the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program for several years.

Gross-Zuchman uses the technique of collage as painting with paper, cutting up her hand-painted papers, creating interesting and surprising effects.

A book of her poems and paintings, "Windows Into War (A Mother's



**The Seder Table**



# Llamas

Continued from page 18

Lament)," is published by Abingdon Square Publishers.

"Seder for the 21st Century," a Passover Haggadah, has an emphasis on social justice and freedom and is illustrated with her collages.

"Becky's Braids," written by Susan Weiss and illustrated by Gross-Zuchman, is a story about a little girl with the messiest hair until her grandmother comes to visit

and teaches her to make braided challah.

The exhibits will be displayed from April 1 to 30.

A reception for the artists is on April 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the GJCC. There will be music by DJ Joseph Harris, henna painting by Seemi Rivzi, along with complimentary food and beverage to accompany the event. The event is free and open to the public.

## National head of JCPA to speak at Vanderbilt Hillel

David Bernstein, president and CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, will speak on "Navigating the Bipartisan Conversation on Israel and anti-Semitism," May 1 at 7 p.m. at the Vanderbilt Hillel. The community is invited.

Built in the aftermath of the Holocaust and at the dawn of the civil rights era, a national-local community relations infrastructure, JCPA, was deployed to ensure America lived up to its own high ideals of fairness and justice. The founders understood then, as we do now, that the wellbeing of the American Jewish community is inextricably linked to that of other minorities and the health of America's pluralistic democracy.

Experience tells us that we can't be for ourselves if we are only for ourselves. Social justice and self-preservation, it turns out, go hand and hand.

Over the years, JCPA has played a leading role on issues, like the civil rights movement, to advocating for the freedom for Soviet Jewry, to preserving freedom of speech and church-state separation, to combating poverty, to stopping genocide in Darfur (and today against the Rohingyas) to fighting anti-Semitism and delegitimization of Israel. In each of these efforts, the national-local system exercised thoughtful leadership, developed strategy, convened the Jewish community and built coalitions with other groups.

As an example, below is the JCPA state-

ment after the mosque shootings in New Zealand:

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs condemns the devastating and horrific shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, which killed 50 Muslim worshippers. Our hearts go out to the families of those murdered, to those injured, and to all of our brothers and sisters in the Muslim community worldwide. We will continue to fight against hate, Islamophobia, and growing white supremacy, racism, and extremism both at home and abroad.

"This is a tragedy not just for Muslims but for all people and all communities of faith. A house of worship must be a sacred space. We must put in place a much stronger set of policies to bring a halt to the lethal combination of gun violence and white supremacy," stated Cheryl Fishbein, Chair of JCPA.

"Just as Muslim leaders stood with us in the wake of the Pittsburgh shootings, we stand with our Muslim friends," said David Bernstein, JCPA's President and CEO.

JCPA urges everyone, especially those in media, to refrain from sharing the shooter's manifesto and video footage of the shooting, and we call on social media platforms to immediately take them down. We must ensure that social media is not used to further hateful activities, including incitement, calls to violence, intimidation, threats, or defamation targeting people based on their race, religion, or gender.

## Nashville's Jewish Montessori Preschool to host its first FUNraiser

The Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool is in its second year and has nearly doubled in size in the past year.

Parents from various backgrounds have enrolled their children so they can receive a Jewish Montessori Education. Montessori recognizes in the child a natural curiosity and desire to learn. Independence, self-confidence, self-discipline, and a love of learning are characteristics that are developed in the Jewish Montessori Montessori classroom.

To celebrate its accomplishments and to thank the Almighty for His blessings, the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool will host its first FunRaiser, on May 9 at 6 p.m., chaired by Celeste Ben-Ami and Andrea Lemkin. All are invited as the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool celebrates its two successful years, impacting the landscape of Jewish education in Nashville, as Tennessee's only Jewish Montessori Preschool.

Guests will enjoy an exquisite gourmet Kosher BBQ dinner, prepared by one of Nashville's premiere chefs, and will sip on a selection of imported kosher wines. The event will be hosted in a private mansion in the Belle Meade Area, and will include live music, good times, fun and great spir-

its, and guest will have the opportunity learn how to be part of the future of Jewish life in Nashville, thus ensuring Jewish continuity into the next generation.

This event will also serve as a FunRaiser for the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool. There will be an opportunity for guest to fulfill the list wish of the preschool teachers and educators, for items that will enhance the education and learning opportunities even more.

The teachers have all created a wish list of items they would love to have for their classroom to enhance the children's learning experience even more. Teaching resources, outside learning and interactive toys and games, including tricycles, a water table, and a preschool trampoline, are just an example of the many items on their list.

The Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool, is open to all children who want to receive a superb Jewish preschool education in a true Montessori setting. All of Nashville's Jewish community are invited to partake in this fun FunRaiser.

For more information or to RSVP, call (615) 646-5750 or go to [www.chabadnashville.com/FunRaiser](http://www.chabadnashville.com/FunRaiser).

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## Wizard leads Nashville puppeteer on odyssey

*Hull brings recognition to pioneering Polish Jewish children's rights advocate and author, 70 years after his murder*

By **BEN HARRIS**  
JTA

In 2013, Nashville puppeteer Brian Hull was browsing through the stacks at the Nashville Public Library when he came across an obscure Polish children's book with a wizard on the cover.

"When I saw the book, I thought, what is this, some Harry Potter ripoff?" said Hull, who runs the library's resident puppet troupe and produces independent puppet shows through his company, BriAnimations Living Entertainment. "Then I saw it was copyrighted 1933."

"Kaytek the Wizard" is the work of Janusz Korczak, a Polish Jewish pediatrician and author best known for refusing to abandon the children of his Warsaw orphanage when they were deported to Treblinka, despite offers of refuge that might have saved his life. The book became available in English only in 2012.

"I started reading it and I just became obsessed with it," Hull said. "I just thought: What is this man doing? This is like no other children's book I've ever read."

Hull went to work in his basement adapting the novel as a puppet show, complete with original music and drawn animations. The show premiered to a sold-out audience at the 2016 Nashville International Puppet Festival. Hull has scarcely stopped performing it ever since, staging it at theaters, festivals and schools across the country.

"As I learned more about Janusz Korczak," Hull wrote in an educational pamphlet distributed by the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, "I couldn't believe I had never heard of him."

Killed by the Nazis in 1942, Korczak left behind a small but formidable body of novels, poems and pedagogical insights that continue to inspire readers, educators and activists more than seven decades after his death. His ideas live on not just in educational circles, but in international law.

Korczak was among the earliest supporters of the notion that children have rights, an idea he promoted on a radio program he hosted before the war and as a signatory to the 1924 Declaration of the

Rights of the Child.

Born Henryk Goldszmit in Warsaw in the late 1870s (the exact year isn't known), Korczak was raised in an affluent Jewish family whose fortunes faded after his father took ill and died. Korczak studied medicine at the University of Warsaw and

became a pediatrician. But in his 30s he abandoned the practice of medicine to become the head of a Jewish orphanage, where he began to put his ideas about children's education into practice.

A firm believer in children's rights, Korczak instituted democratic governance in the orphanage, including establishing a parliament where the children set their own rules and administered their own affairs. If a rule was broken,

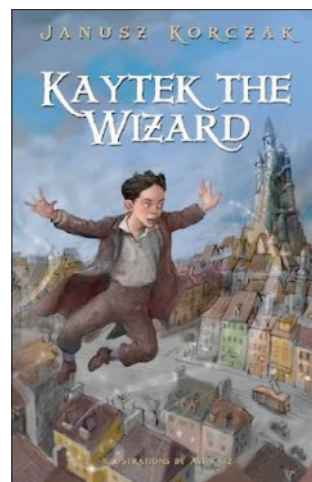
the offender could be brought before a children's court overseen by a rotating group of judges. Korczak also founded the first national children's newspaper and wrote more than two dozen books.

"Many of his actions with the children I would say are now considered social and emotional learning, which is now the in-word in education," said Sara Efrat Efron, an education professor at National Louis University in Chicago. "There is a lot of effort now to find ways of focusing on emotional and social growth, and the methods that are recommended are things that Korczak did, day in and day out. So he was really ahead of his time, and maybe ahead of our time."

Today, societies dedicated to Korczak's legacy are active in more than a dozen countries, including in the United States. Schools inspired by his pedagogical ideas exist in Germany, Holland, Poland and Russia. His teachings are the basis of a summer camp in Poland, and his life is the inspiration for the song "The Little Review," by the Canadian folk singer Awna Teixeira. In 2012, a bronze relief of Korczak was unveiled at the University of British Columbia.

Translations of Korczak's writings continue to be published, including a 2013 Chinese edition of his children's book "King Matt the First."

Korczak's efforts on behalf of children were all the more remarkable, Efron says,







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## Kaytek

Continued from page 20

because they were undertaken amidst the most trying of conditions.

With the Nazi occupation of Poland, Korczak was forced to relocate his orphanage to the Warsaw Ghetto. As the moral condition of the surrounding culture deteriorated, Korczak declined to delude the youngsters in his care about the realities of the world, yet neither would he succumb to despair, continuing to believe that children were the best hope for humanity.

That conviction was severely tested in August 1942, when the Nazis came to collect the 190 children in the orphanage. In what would come to be the story by which he is best remembered, Korczak, by then a prominent figure in Poland, declined offers that might have enabled his escape. Instead, he dressed his charges in their finest clothes and led them through the streets to the deportation point, where they were placed on trains to Treblinka.

"Korczak's clinging to hope did not stem from naivety or blindness," Efron wrote in a 2016 article, "but from a calculated choice, an existential understanding that despair means giving up on change, thus conceding the future."

Decades after his death, Korczak's ideas would be promoted by Poland's post-war government.

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, was first proposed by Poland in 1978. The Order of the Smile, an international award given by children to adults distinguished in promoting their interests, was started in Poland in 1968 and recognized by the U.N. secretary-general in 1979.

This year, the award went to Marta Santo Pais, the U.N. special representative on violence against children, who deliv-

ered the keynote address at a November conference on Korczak's legacy, pedagogy and advocacy for children's rights held at Columbia University. The conference was sponsored by the Polish Cultural Institute New York, among others.

"Korczak's main idea is that a child is a human, only a small human, and therefore his or her rights cannot be treated differently from adult rights. That was revolutionary for his time," said Anna Domanska, acting director of the institute. "So was his innovative way of running a center for orphaned children. Korczak's activity was also made possible by the general social climate of interwar Poland, where citizens, enjoying their freedom after 123 years of foreign domination, wanted to express that freedom as fully as possible."

In 2012, the lower house of Poland's parliament, the Sejm, declared the Year of Janusz Korczak, marking 70 years since his death and 100 since he founded his orphans' home.

"This allowed us to commemorate the old doctor and fix his memory not only in Polish reality, but the world's," said Marek Michalak, Poland's Children's Rights Ombudsman from 2008 to 2018, chancellor of the International Chapter of the Order of the Smile, and president of the International Janusz Korczak Association. "Korczak was not just as a victim of the Holocaust, but also as the first spokesman for children's rights, an outstanding pedagogue and author."

*This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute New York, a diplomatic mission of Poland's Foreign Affairs Ministry that promotes comprehensive knowledge of Poland, Polish history and national heritage. This story was produced by JTA's native content team.*

## Art on the West Side April 6-7

ART on the West Side announces its sixth consecutive juried art show on April 6 and 7, showcasing 41 local and nationally recognized artists, and representing media including paint, sculpture, jewelry design, clay and fiber, wood and glass.

There are several local Jewish artists, along with Debra Jill, from the Memphis Jewish community.

This year's curators, Robin Cohen, Rae Hirsch, and Martha Nemer, reviewed close to 1,000 pieces submitted by more than 200 artists. The show will appeal to a wide audience of art enthusiasts and collectors with art at many price points. Artists also will be present and available to speak with attendees and art enthusiasts.

"In a city with a strong artistic history and community, and a wide array of art-centric events, ART on the West Side has become the place to see one of the best curated collections, spanning styles and mediums," said local art enthusiasts Heidi and John Hassenfeld. "We love coming every year, seeing and being surrounded by some of the best, most exciting pieces across the board."

The featured artist this year, Paul Harmon, is an internationally-exhibited artist who, from 1986 to early 1998, divided his time between permanent studios and residences in Paris, France and Brentwood, Tenn. "My work is a personal journal of my life. It is therefore both serious and frivolous. Joyous and melancholic. Spiritual and erotic. The continuity is in the fact that it tracks a real life."

The event begins the evening of April 6 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, with a cocktail reception from 6 to 9 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per person; valet parking is provided.

On April 7, the event opens with morning jazz with lite bites and mimosas from 10 a.m. to noon, and the show will be open until 4 p.m.

This year, ART on the West Side will also feature JPOP, a fabulous pop-up market featuring jewelry, accessories, children's items, home and paper goods, and food items. This event is free and open to the public. The ECLC will have a table, featuring Rhonda Wernick's class. Carrie Mills will also have a booth, as will two Akiva School students.

A percentage of all sales from ART on the West Side benefit art programming at the Gordon JCC.

Find a full list of artists at [www.artonthewestside.org](http://www.artonthewestside.org).





## B'nai Mitzvah

### Alexander Sidney Averbuch

Alexander Sidney Averbuch will become a Bar Mitzvah on April 6 at The Temple.

He was born on January 9, 2006 in Atlanta, Ga. He is the son of Dana and Greg Averbuch. Alexander's grandparents are Arlene and Jerry Averbuch of Nashville and Huntsville, Ala.; Peggy Averbuch and Monte Strusiner of Highland Park, Ill.; and Elaine and Alan Kolodkin of Atlanta.

For his mitzvah project, Alexander has chosen St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, where he and his friends will be making craft kits for their "Happy Cart" that goes around to inpatient rooms several nights a week to offer patients and their families a welcomed distraction. Alexander is also making a personal donation.

Alexander is in the eighth grade at Montgomery Bell Academy and his special interests include attending summer camp at Nebagamon for Boys, playing football, lacrosse, skiing (water and snow), cooking, woodworking, and spending time with family and friends.

### Benjamin Isaac Kampine

Benjamin Isaac Kampine will become a Bar Mitzvah on April 13 at The Temple.

He was born in Nashville on April 7, 2006. His parents are Bill and Andrea Kampine. Alexander is the grandson of Tillie Katz of New York; Marc Katz of Worcester, Mass.; and Susan Kampine of Ft. Worth, Tex.

For his mitzvah project, Benjamin collected damaged bicycles from our neighbors, repaired the bicycles, purchased matching helmets, and then donated them to the Edgehill Bike Club. The Edgehill Bike Club provides free bicycles to families in need.

Benjamin is in the seventh grade at University School of Nashville. He has many interests, including soccer, mountain biking, playing the trumpet (and Shofar!) and blacksmithing.

### Brandon Mayer Fonseca

Brandon Mayer Fonseca will become a Bar Mitzvah on April 27 at Congregation Micah.

He is the son of Ingrid Mayer and Ricardo Fonseca, and the brother of Laura. He is the grandson of Hilda and Hugo Mayer of Nashville, and Antonio and Licia Fonseca of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

For his mitzvah project, Brandon is helping underprivileged children and their communities have access to sports and sports equipment. He has also established a B'nai Tzedek fund at the Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Brandon is a seventh grader at University School of Nashville. In his spare time, he plays soccer with Nashville Football Club, and enjoys track and field, cross country, traveling, and spending time playing Xbox with his friends.

### Yaacov Yisrael Shuman

Yaacov Yisrael Shuman became a Bar Mitzvah on his 13th Hebrew birthday, the 18th of Adar II, on March 25, and was called to the Torah at Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad. The Shuman family will be celebrating Yaacov's Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat morning, May 4, at Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, where Yaacov will be leading the services, including the Torah and HafTorah readings, and

giving a short Torah discourse. A celebratory Kiddush lunch will follow.

There will also be a Rosh Chodesh service on May 5 where Yaacov will be leading the service and giving another Torah discourse, followed by a special Rosh Chodesh lunch.

Yaacov is the son of Brad and Erika Shuman. He is the grandson of Monica Miller, Stockholm, Sweden and Nashville; Les and Carol Shuman, Hoffman Estates, Ill.; and Barry Miller, Eugene, Ore.

He is the younger brother of Malka, Rivka and Adina Shuman and the older brother of Avi, Leora and Zev Shuman.

Yaacov is a graduate of Akiva School and is now homeschooled. He enjoys spending time with his family, reading, sports and art.



Yacov Shuman

## Births

Congratulations to Carolyn and Evan Remer on the birth of their daughter, Vivian Rose, born on March 10 in Columbus, Ohio. She is the sister of big brother, Daniel. Grandparents are Esther and Steven Remer of Nashville; Margo and Larry Gold of Atlanta, Ga.; and Rebecca and Dr. Barry Dix of McDonough, Ga. Great Grandmothers are Rachel Chojnacki and Sylvia Remer.

## Engagements



Natalia Shmueli and Joshua Simon

## Obituaries

### Catherine Mary Bainbridge Russ

Catherine Mary Bainbridge Russ, 81, widow of Elton Grey Russ, passed away on March 5 at Prince George Healthcare Center in Georgetown, S.C.

Born in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania on April 2, 1937, she was the daughter of the late Wilbur and Evelyn Bainbridge. She enjoyed golf, gardening, music, and movies. Her favorite days were the ones spent with her children and grandchildren. She was a beloved mother and grandmother who will be dearly missed.

Surviving are her two children, Will Russ and his wife Julie Russ of McKinney, Tex.; and Sherrie Russ Levine and her husband Michael J. Levine of Nashville; three grandchildren, Alicia Russ of Seattle, Rachel Celeste Levine of Brooklyn, N.Y., Zachary Levine of Nashville.

Services were held on March 9 at First Baptist Church of Georgetown. Burial followed in Pennyroyal Memorial Gardens.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.grahamfuneralhome.org](http://www.grahamfuneralhome.org).

### Violet Kramer Solomon

Violet Solomon, 97, passed away on March 5 in Cincinnati.

She was the beloved wife of the late Harry "Red" Solomon, loving mother of Paula (Jay) Kholos and Edie (Allen) Rau, dear sister of Audrey Berns and the late Bess Rosenbloom, Sidney Kramer, Florence Silverstone, Merle Goldstein and Norma Neff; devoted grandmother of Craig Davis, Beth (Christopher Ehresman) Davis, Blair (Andrew)

Stefanescu, Seth and Justin Rau; great grandmother of Holden and Lincoln Ehresman and Daniela and Rubin Stefanescu.

Services were held on March 7, in Cincinnati. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Hadassah Cincinnati, 4914 Cooper Road, P.O. Box 42396, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242 would be appreciated.

### Judy Whitman

Judy Whitman, formerly of Nashville, passed away on March 7. She was predeceased by her husband, Harold Whitman, parents, Ethel and Jack Sandler and brother, Billy Sandler.

She was the mother of Cheryl & Kenny, cousin of Nashville's Leonard Amdur. The funeral was on March 10 in Philadelphia.

### William James Stockard III


William James Stockard III, 86, passed away on March 13 in Nashville. He was the only child of Laura Kinzer Stockard and William James Stockard Jr. He lost his father at the age of 6 and grew up in Green Hills with his mother when it was a new subdivision.

Bill, or "Stick" (his nickname on the football team), graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1950 and then from Vanderbilt University in 1954 with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering, and later returned to earn a Master of Civil Engineering in 1976. He served in the U.S. army following college in Germany, and after returning to Nashville in 1957, began working at Hart Freeland & Roberts, where he soon became a partner. In 1982, Bill received his architecture license in the state of Tennessee.

His most well-known Nashville projects were Pearl Cohn High School, the Nashville Downtown Library, the rehabilitation of the Ryman Auditorium and the now Nissan Stadium. After retiring from Hart Freeland & Roberts

## New information service

Observer readers who wish to receive email notification of obituaries as the newspaper receives the information may be placed on a new e-mail list being created for this purpose by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Please send your request via e-mail to [obits@jewishnashville.org](mailto:obits@jewishnashville.org).



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# Obituaries

Continued from page 23

at the age of 65, he continued to consult on various projects for almost two decades. Upon returning from Germany, Bill met Claire Evelyn Larkey of Memphis, who was in graduate school at Vanderbilt University. Bill & Claire married in 1960 and had one child, Suzanne, in 1970. Claire passed away several months after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1979.

The second half of his life began with Baskin & Robbins chocolate mint ice cream. He was going to a board meeting at his daughter's school and called Mary Abram, also a recent widow, to ask if he could drop off his daughter at her house

before the meeting, as one of Abrams' five children was a classmate of Suzanne's. When he came to the door to pick up Suzanne he suspected a gallon of Baskin Robbins Chocolate Mint Ice cream would get him invited inside. Six months later, their wedding ceremony was in the living room.

Bill was a member of Christ Church Cathedral and is survived by his wife, Mary Abram Stockard; children Suzanne Stockard of Portland Ore.; Jessie Rosenblum of Nashville; Adam Abram (Susan) of Harrisburg, Pa.; Sarah Chabon (Arthur) of Irvington, N.Y.; Harry Abram (Debbie) of Jacksonville, Fla.; Rebecca Glassner of

Nashville; and grandchildren Claire and Harry Stockard of Portland, Ore.; Zoe and Simon Rosenblum of Nashville; Lily, Sam and Claire Abram of Harrisburg, Pa.; Isaac and Jake Chabon of Irvington, N.Y.; Katie, Rachael and Ben Abram of Jacksonville, Fla.; Miriam Mezer (Ben) of Denver, Col.; and Sarah Lansky (Daniel) of Nashville; and great-grandchildren Naama, Yael and Judah Mezer; and his dog, Jack.

Donations to Alive Hospice or the Alzheimer's Foundation of America can be made in Bill Stockard's memory.

## Samuel Henry Hirshberg

Samuel Henry Hirshberg, 88, passed away on March 14 in Nashville. He is preceded in death by devoted wife, Phyllis Gordon Hirshberg; parents, Rose and Alfred Hirshberg; and sister, Bobbie Ann Fox.

Sam is survived by son David Hirshberg; daughter Lisa Bernstein (Jonathan); grandchildren Alison Meisterman (Danny), Joshua Bernstein, Rebecca Sheinin (Ronald), and Caren Bernstein; great-grandchildren Micah Meisterman and Miri Sheinin; and brother Charles Hirshberg (Dorothy).

Graveside service was held on March 17 at Temple Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Temple.

## Shout-out to RBG at soccer match in Nashville

By **MARCY OSTER**  
JTA

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's name appeared on the back of the jersey of a player for the U.S. women's soccer team.

Each American player honored a different woman on her jersey during a match against England in the SheBelieves Cup held on March 2 in Nashville.

Defender Becky Sauerbrunn chose to feature Ginsburg's name. She told ESPN that the Supreme Court justice is a "rock star" in her eyes.

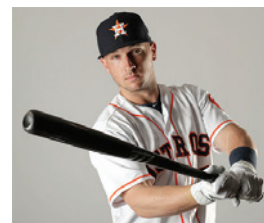
"Dissenting opinion, battling cancer and then showing up to vote... what can't she do?" Sauerbrunn said. "I just think she's amazing."

Other women honored by her teammates included Mother Teresa, Sally Ride, J.K. Rowling, Cardi B, Malala Yousafzai, Serena Williams and Beyonce.

## Bregman signs record deal for Jewish athlete

By **GABE FRIEDMAN**  
JTA

Alex Bregman has agreed to a six-year, \$100 million contract with the Houston Astros — likely the largest deal ever for a professional Jewish athlete.



Bregman, who turns 25 at the end of March, has established himself as one of Major League Baseball's top players. Last year he finished fifth in the American League's Most Valuable Player voting following a season of 31 home runs, 103 runs batted in and a league-best 51 doubles. He also was named the All-Star Game's MVP.

Fellow Jewish major leaguer Ryan Braun's contract from 2008 — for \$45 million with the Milwaukee Brewers — now appears small in comparison.

They all do now, compared to Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout: On March 20, the two-time American League MVP signed a 12-year, \$426.5 million contract, one of the largest deals ever in pro sports.

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**Cantor Tracy Fishbein**

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Pictured with Jimmy and Beverly Small is Marjorie Zager, Laura Rosenbauer, Kathy Caplan, Anna Sir and Pam Kelner.

## Golden Lunch Bunch celebrates Jimmy Small's 90th birthday

The Golden Lunch Bunch group at The Temple recently celebrated the 90th birthday of the program's funder, Jimmy Small. The festivities included a musical production from Cantor Tracy Fishbein and Russ Davis, highlighting many of the notable contributions of Jewish composers to the Broadway stage.

Thanks to the generosity of Jimmy and Beverly Small, the Golden Lunch Bunch meets twice a month, year-round at The Temple for musical entertainment, catered lunches from area restaurants, socializing and fun.

Each get-together provides an opportunity for friends to gather, as well as for seniors new to the Nashville Jewish community to create new bonds.

This meaningful program is a collaboration between The Temple, which houses the program, and Jewish Family Service, which facilitates the program. In the last 13 years, approximately 286 lunches have occurred, touching the lives of so many Jewish seniors.

To find out more information about the program or upcoming dates, contact Anna Sir at Jewish Family Service, (615) 354-1686, or [helpinghands@jfsnashville.org](mailto:helpinghands@jfsnashville.org).

## Rabbis Tiechtel and Strosburg to complete Tractate of Talmud

There is an ancient and widespread custom for the firstborn to fast on the day before Passover. This fast commemorates G-d's kindness towards the Israelite firstborn; when G-d slew all the Egyptian firstborn males He spared their Jewish counterparts.

This fast is treated leniently. Thus, if there is a festive meal held that is connected with a mitzvah, for example, the celebration of a circumcision or of a siyum (the completion of a tractate of the Talmud) the firstborn son participates in the meal rather than fasting.

It is therefore customary to arrange for a Siyum, which is the completion of the study of a tractate of the Talmud, to take place in the synagogue after morning prayers on the 14th of Nisan. The firstborn sons who are present — and anyone else who is interested in enjoying some refreshments — participate in this festive meal and, having broken their fast, are free to eat for the rest of the day.

Over the past six months Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel from Congregation Beth Tefilah together with Rabbi Saul Strosburg from Con-

gregation Sherith Israel, have been studying a tractate of the Talmud, in order to conclude by the day before Passover.

On the morning of April 19, the morning before the Seder, both rabbis will be making a Siyum, celebrating the completion of 90 pages on the Talmud of Yuma, following the morning service at their respective congregations, Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad and at Congregation Sherith Israel. It will be followed by a light breakfast snack thus giving the firstborns the opportunity to partake in a meal of a Mitzvah and permitting them to break the fast of the first born.

For more information go to [www.chabadnashville.com](http://www.chabadnashville.com).



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Wishing the Entire  
Nashville Community  
A Very Happy and Kosher Passover

From Linda and Jay Amsel  
Michelle, Larry Kogan and Family  
Stacy, Coby Hanai and Family



# 3 PIECES.

Time to set out the seder plates.

Pass down the wine, and bring the matzah.

Three, please, all nicely stacked.

Pass down old stories, and gather new recipes.

Time to set out the seder plates.

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